

Message Text

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SUBJ: EDITORIAL IN IRISH INDEPENDENT, MAY 19, 1977

THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN IRISH INDEPENDENT, MAY
19, 1977 UNDER HEADING KENNEDY'S SPEECH:

SENATOR KENNEDY'S STATESMANLIKE SPEECH YESTERDAY IS ONE
WHICH DESERVES ATTENTION NOT ONLY AMONG THE IRISH-AMERICAN
COMMUNITY BUT IN THIS COUNTRY AS WELL. FOR THE EMPHASIS
THROUGHOUT IS ON THE NEED TO ACHIEVE GOALS BY LEGAL MEANS
AND NOT THROUGH THE BARRELL OF A GUN. THERE IS IN THIS A
RECOGNITION OF SOMETHING WHICH HAS BEEN PROVED OVER AND
OVER AGAIN IN THE NORTH - THAT VIOLENCE BREEDS VIOLENCE.

TO WAVERERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC SENATOR KENNEDY
HAS ADDRESSED A MESSAGE OF MODERATION. DOLLARS SPENT
WITH ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE TRACK RECORDS SHOW THEM TO BE
SENDING MONEY TO THE MEN OF VIOLENCE ARE DOLLARS BADLY
SPENT, AND THEY WILL NOT BRING THE DAY OF DELIVERANCE IN
THE NORTH ONE MINUTE SOONER.

HIS ENDORSEMENT OF THE S.D.L.P. AND ITS LEADERSHIP FOR
THE POLICIES PURSUED OVER THE YEARS IS ONLY A JUST
RECOGNITION OF WORK BRAVELY UNDERTAKEN AND CARRIED
OUT DESPITE PHYSICAL VIOLENCE SUFFERED BY SOME OF THE
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PARTY'S MEMBERS - AND THEIR RELATIVES. FOR IN THE
LONG RUN IT HAS TURNED OUT THAT THE BULK OF THE
MINORITY IN THE NORTH IS A MODERATE ONE, WILLING TO
SEEK THEIR GOALS BY LEGITIMATE AND DEMOCRATIC MEANS -
AND IN THIS THEY HAVE PLACED THEIR TRUST IN THE S.D.L.P.

SENATOR KENNEDY SEES HOPE - AS MANY OF US DO - IN THE

GROWTH OF PEACE MOVEMENTS - A SPONTANEOUS GRASS-ROOTS REACTION TO THE HORROR OF THE VIOLENCE WHICH HAS SEPARATED PEOPLE IN THE NORTH. HIS DENUNCIATION OF VIOLENCE IS EQUALLY STRONG. HE SEES IT AS COMING FROM A SMALL MINORITY IN THE NORTH WHO HAVE TRIED TO IMPOSE THEIR WILL ON THE PEOPLE THEY CLAIM TO BE DEFENDING.

HIS FORTRIGHT SPEECH MUST HAVE THE RESULT OF FURTHER CURTAILING THE FLOW OF SYMPATHY AND CASH TO THE MEN OF VIOLENCE IN THE NORTH. BUT IT ALSO HAS THE EFFECT OF LETTING MILLIONS KNOW THAT THE NORTH IS NOT DIVIDED INTO TWO ARMED CAMPS, AS SOME OF THE MORE STRIDENT PROPAGANDISTS ASSERT. FROM THE CONTENT AND TONE OF THE SENATORS WORDS MANY PEOPLE WILL NOW BE AWARE OF THE TRUTH OF THE SITUATION IN THE NORTH - THAT IT IS AN AREA WHERE THE VAST MAJORITY WANT PEACE, NOT VIOLENCE. COMING FROM A MAN IN HIS POSITION THE SENATORS SPEECH CAN ONLY HAVE INVALUABLE RESULTS BOTH IN THE UNITED STATES AND HERE AT HOME. TO MILITANT IRISH-AMERICANS HE HAS SHOWN A RED LIGHT, AND IF HE SUCCEEDS IN CONVERTING A FEW THOUSAND OF THEM THEN HE WILL HAVE ACHIEVED MUCH. KRENE

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